



**October 24, 2014**

**Health Advisory**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have released detailed infection control guidance for facilities caring for suspect or confirmed Ebola virus infected patients. The guidance is available on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html> or through a link on the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) website's Ebola page at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/ebola/default.aspx>. The detailed guidance includes:

- Recommended administrative and environmental controls for healthcare facilities
- Principles of PPE
- Training on the correct use of PPE
- Use of a trained observer
- Designating areas for PPE donning and doffing
- Selection of PPE for healthcare workers during management of Ebola patients
- Recommended PPE
- Recommended PPE for trained observers during observation of PPE doffing
- Preparing for doffing

Key principles within this guidance include:

- Prior to working with or caring for Ebola patients, all healthcare workers must receive repeated training and demonstrate competency in performing all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, specifically in donning and doffing proper PPE
- While wearing PPE, healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients should have no skin exposed
- The overall safe care of Ebola patients in a facility must be overseen by an onsite manager at all times, and each step of every PPE donning/doffing procedure must be supervised by a trained observer to ensure proper completions of established PPE protocols

PPE is only one aspect of infection control. It is critical to focus on other prevention activities to halt the spread of Ebola in healthcare settings, including:

- Prompt screening and triage of potential patients
- Designated site managers to ensure proper implementation of precautions
- Limiting personnel in the isolation room
- Effective environmental cleaning

A training video produced by CDC and the Greater New York Hospital Association demonstrating PPE use, including donning and doffing can be found at <http://www.gnyha.org/ebolatraining>.